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(54) **CUSTARD CREAM.**

(57) A custard cream which forms a body by utilizing the crystallizability of SUS-type fat (by utilizing the phenomenon of an oil-in-water emulsion composition turning into a plastic state). It has a very good meltability in the mouth and a smooth texture realized by utilizing the crystallizability of the fat without using any polysaccharide such as starch or gelling agent at all and without forming a body by utilizing a foaming power unlike whipped cream.

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a custard cream, the body (solidified shape) of which is formed by utilizing crystallizability of an oil-and-fat containing not less than 70% of SUS type triglycerides. Thereby, according to the present invention, there can be provided a high grade custard cream using no starch and having good melting properties in the mouth and a smooth texture.

PRIOR ART

A body of a custard cream is generally composed of polysaccharides such as starch (soft flour), gelatinizing agent and the like and therefore the custard cream has such defects as sticky and rough mouth feel and very inferior melting properties in the mouth. In addition, although a foamable oil-in-water emulsion, that is, a foamable custard cream, a body of which is formed by adding ingredients such as yolk and milk to a whipped cream and whipping them has been available for a few years, it has persistently the same properties as those of a conventional whipped cream, that is a weak taste and poor body due to the relationship with over-run and it has no resistance to heat.

On the other hand, there has never been known previously a custard cream, a body of which is formed by utilizing crystallizability of an oil-and-fat.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to obtain a custard cream-like foodstuff having good melting properties in the mouth and smooth texture by utilizing crystallizability of an oil-and-fat without using polysaccharides such as starch (soft flour) and gelatinizing agents and without forming a body utilizing foaming force as in the case of a whipped cream.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

In order to attain the above object, the present inventors studied intensively and, as the result, found that a custard cream in which no polysaccharides such as starch, gelatinizing agent and the like are used as a body forming agent can be obtained by utilizing crystallizability of an oil-and-fat rich in SUS type triglycerides. This custard cream having an oil-and-fat body is a novel custard cream having much better melting properties in the mouth and extremely smooth texture, different from those of a custard cream having a starch body, including a custard cream-like foodstuff and custard-flavored cream. The present invention is explained in detail below.

Since an oil-and-fat rich in SUS type triglycerides has inherently such properties that stability of the emulsified state is extremely low and the thickened state (plastic state) is easy to form, it has been said to be unsuitable for preparing an oil-in-water emulsion composition. Thus, the present inventors studied this thickened state and, by using a daringly thickened state which was thought to be defective, succeeded in obtaining a custard cream which utilizes crystallizability without using polysaccharides such as starch and gelatinizing agent.

The present invention relates to a custard cream which comprises utilizing the crystallizability of an oil-and-fat containing not less than 70% (referred to as weight % hereinafter) of SUS type triglycerides and having not less than 70% of SFC at 5 °C and not less than 55% of SFC at 15 °C. More preferably, the present invention relates to a custard cream wherein the number of carbon atoms of the fatty acid residues in a 1,3-disaturated triglyceride of the SUS type triglyceride is 16 and/or 18.

Examples of the oil-and-fat rich in SUS triglycerides are palm oil, illipe butter and shea butter, and hardened or fractionated oil-and-fat thereof, and interesterified butter obtained by introducing a saturated fatty acid at the 1,3-positions of an oil-and-fat rich in unsaturated fatty acids at the 2-position. The term SUS type triglyceride refers to a 2-unsaturated-1,3-disaturated triglyceride, and the number of carbon atoms of fatty acid residue therein is 8 to 22 (a small amount of short chain fatty acid may be contained therein), 16 and/or 18 being most preferable. Examples of the 2-positional unsaturated fatty acid are oleic acid, linoleic acid and linolenic acid.

In addition, although a small amount of other kinds of oil-and-fat raw material may be added to the oil-and-fat rich in SUS type triglycerides, the proportion added may be up to 10% and, when the proportion exceeds 10%, there may be cases where a thickened state, that is, plastic state becomes incomplete due to non-uniform crystallizability of the oil-and-fat or it takes a longer time to reach a plastic state. In order to give sharper melting properties, formulation is performed so that the SFC of the oil-and-fat as a whole is not

less than 70% at 5 °C and not less than 55% at 15 °C. The content of the oil-and-fat in the custard cream of the present invention is not more than 50%, preferably 15 to 35% based on the total weight of the cream. When the oil-and-fat is used in an amount of less than 15%, the plastic state is incomplete and, when used in an amount of more than 50%, a good taste custard cream cannot be obtained due to a strongly oily feel.

5 Yolk is added mainly to give custard flavor, but since the gel properties of yolk also have more or less relationship to body properties as a custard cream, yolk is essential to a custard cream. Usually, in the present invention, commercially available liquid yolk may be used or a fresh egg may be broken to take only the yolk, and the amount of yolk to be added may be optionally selected depending upon one's liking for custard flavor, 3 to 20% being preferable. However, when a sterilizing treatment such as ultra-high
10 temperature pasteurization is carried out on preparation of the present custard cream, there is a problem that scorching occurs in the heat exchanger of the sterilizing apparatus when the content of yolk is too high. Therefore, in such cases, pre-modified yolk such as lyophilized yolk, sweetening and heating-modified yolk and enzyme-treated yolk may be used.

Non-fat solids are necessary to stabilize the emulsified state of an oil-in-water emulsion in addition to
15 impacting milk flavor to the custard cream. Examples of non-fat solids are skim milk powder, whole milk powder, raw cream and sweetened condensed milk. Alternatively, skim milk powder or whole milk powder may be Maillard-treated. Such non-fat solids are used in an amount of 1 to 15%, preferably 3 to 10% based on the total weight. Sugars are essential for imparting flavor as a sweetener to a custard cream. Examples
20 of sugars are sucrose, glucose, sorbitol, saccharificated reduced starch, maltose, lactose, fructose and various thick malt syrups.

These sugars are added in an amount of 5 to 30%, preferably 15 to 25% based on the total weight of the custard cream in order to act as a sweetener, different from a body former such as starch, gelatinizing agents and viscosity-increasing polysaccharides. Although the custard cream of the present invention can be prepared using no polysaccharides such as starch or gelatinizing agents these polysaccharides may be
25 added to some extent in order to prevent loss of water and to maintain the stability of the texture.

In the custard cream of the present invention, it is preferable that various salts or emulsifiers are used. For salts, it is desirable that, for example, sodium hexametaphosphate, sodium secondary phosphate, sodium citrate, sodium polyphosphate and sodium bicarbonate are used alone or as a mixture of not less than two of them. Any emulsifiers may be used in so far as they are generally used for preparing oil-in-
30 water emulsions. In particular, sucrose fatty acid ester, sorbitan fatty acid ester, lecithin, propylene glycol fatty acid ester, glycerin fatty acid ester and polyglycerin fatty acid ester may suitably be mixed to be used, wherein they are added to the oily phase or the aqueous phase in a proportion of 0.1 to 1% by weight based on the total weight of the emulsion.

The custard cream of the present invention can be prepared according to the steps for preparing a field
35 cream or imitation cream, and one example of preparation is explained below. Respective raw materials are preemulsified at 70 °C for 20 minutes and homogenized under the conditions of 0 to 150 kg/cm². The homogenate is then treated by ultra-high temperature heating (UHT), homogenized again under the conditions of 0 to 150 kg/cm², cooled and subjected to aging for about 48 hours. Aging time is longer in the case of the present custard cream than in the case of the conventional field cream because the present
40 custard cream utilizes crystallizability of an oil-and-fat and it takes a longer time to reach the so-called thickened state, that is plastic state, comparing with the case of the conventional field cream.

The custard cream of the present invention can be used for preparing cream puffs, filling breads, cakes and the like, icing and preparing imitation flowers.

In the present invention, the body of a custard cream is formed by using an oil-and-fat rich in SUS type
45 triglycerides and utilizing crystallizability of the oil-and-fat and the phenomenon upon formation of the body is thought to be as follows. Inherently, an oil-and-fat rich in SUS type triglycerides is used mainly as a vegetable oil-and-fat for chocolates, that is, as a hard butter, and the crystal pattern of the oil-and-fat is generally confirmed to include six patterns of types 1 to 6. Among these types, the stable state of type 5 is maintained in the present custard cream.

50 Respective custard creams obtained in the following Examples 1 and 2 were studied for crystal pattern by an X-ray diffraction method using a MXP-3 apparatus manufactured by MACSCIENCE Company, and it was found that the crystal pattern of both samples is type 5 (β_2 type) and the respective custard creams have a very stable crystal structure. These samples were cooled and stored for ten days in a refrigerator and their crystal pattern was studied by the same method. As a result, respective samples were found to
55 maintain the stable state of the 5 type and to have good physical properties without change in physical properties such as loss of water and oil off.

The following Examples illustrate embodiments of the present invention, but they are merely illustrative and the scope of the present invention is not limited to them. In addition, parts and %s are represented by

weight.

Example 1

- 5 An oily phase for a custard cream (table 1) was prepared by warming an oil-and-fat to 70 °C and adding lecithin thereto to mix. Separately, an aqueous phase was prepared by warming water to about 60 °C, adding sodium hexametaphosphate thereto to dissolve, then dissolving or dispersing therein whole powder, yolk and sucrose. Then, the oily phase and aqueous phase were mixed and, if necessary, sucrose fatty acid ester and perfume were added thereto, the mixture was stirred to pre-emulsify at 65 to 70 °C for 10 20 minutes using a homomixer and homogenized under the conditions of 30 kg/cm². Thereafter, the homogenate was immediately treated at 140 to 145 °C for four seconds by UHT direct heat-sterilizing, homogenized again under the conditions of 40 kg/cm², cooled rapidly to about 10 °C and filled into a corrugated cardboard box in which a vinyl chloride bag had been laid. The filled homogenate had the viscosity of 250 cps and showed a liquid state.
- 15 These filled substances were subjected to aging in a refrigerator at 5 °C for about 48 hours to obtain a custard cream showing a plastic state. The viscosity at that time was not measurable due to the plastic state and hardness was 150 g/cm² by a rheometer (using a 10 φ plunger). The custard cream of the present invention is an oil-in-water emulsion having very good melting properties in the mouth and smooth texture, in which polysaccharides such as starch and gelatinizing agent are not used at all as shown in the 20 formulations in the Table and a body is formed only by means of crystallizability of an oil-and-fat.

Examples 2 and 3

- Custard creams were prepared according to the same formulation and manner as those in Example 1 25 except that the oil-and-fat was varied and the composition of the oil-and-fat was different. As the result, custard creams were obtained which showed a plastic state of rheometer value of 120 g/cm² in the formulation of Example 2 (Table 1) and of rheometer value of 90 g/cm² in the formulation of Example 3 (Table 1). Although these custard creams did not have the same level of hardness as that in Example 1, they showed a plastic state and therefore had a softer body derived from crystallizability of the oil-and-fat. 30 In addition, all samples of Examples 1 to 3 showed no change in hardness even after ten days and had good physical properties without water loss and oil off.

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Table 1

Formulation of custard cream (values represent weight % of
total weight)

Raw material	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Oil-and-fat A (note 1)	23.6	-	-
Oil-and-fat B (note 2)	-	23.6	-
Oil-and-fat C (note 3)	-	-	23.6
Yolk (note 4)	15.0	15.0	15.0
Sucrose	10.0	10.0	10.0
Whole milk powder	8.5	8.5	8.5
Water	remainder	remainder	remainder
Emulsifier (note 5)	0.4	0.4	0.4
Salts (note 6)	0.19	0.19	0.19
Perfume	0.06	0.06	0.06

(Note 1, 2, 3)

Oil-and-fat A: Middle-melting portions of palm oil
Oil-and-fat B: Middle-melting portions of palm oil, cocoa
butter substitute comprising fractionated shea butter
Oil-and-fat C: Fractionated shea butter

	Melting point	SFC (5 °C)	SFC (15 °C)	Content of SUS type triglycerides in oil-and-fat
Oil-and-fat A	30 °C	90%	80%	80%
Oil-and-fat B	33 °C	85%	70%	80%
Oil-and-fat C	39 °C	90%	80%	83%

(Note 4) Freezing-modified yolk (modified proportion: 45%)

(Note 5) Soy bean lecithin and sucrose fatty acid ester

(Note 6) Sodium hexametaphosphate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium
citrate

Comparative Examples 1 to 3

Samples were obtained according to the same formulation and manner as those in Examples 1 to 3 except that the oil-and-fat was varied and the composition of the oil-and-fat was different. As the result, even at 72 hours after aging, the filled substances remained liquid, having approximately the same viscosity as that immediately after filling, and a plastic state was not attained, resulting in no custard creams.

From these facts, it is clear that the oil-and-fat to be used should essentially contain not less than 70 % of SUS type triglycerides and have an SFC of not less than 70% at 5 °C and not less than 55% at 15 °C. That is, selection of the oil-and-fat is important in the present custard creams, the body of which is formed by utilizing crystallizability of the oil-and-fat.

Table 2

Formulation of custard cream (values represent weight % of
total weight)

Raw material	Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3
Oil-and-fat T (note 1)	23.6	-	-
Oil-and-fat U (note 2)	-	23.6	-
Oil-and-fat V (note 3)	-	-	23.6
Yolk	15.0	15.0	15.0
Sucrose	10.0	10.0	10.0
Whole milk powder	8.5	8.5	8.5
Water	remainder	remainder	remainder
Emulsifier	0.4	0.4	0.4
Salts	0.19	0.19	0.19
Perfume	0.06	0.06	0.06

(Note 1, 2, 3)

Oil-and-fat T: Isomerized hardened palm oil

Oil-and-fat U: Middle-melting portions of palm oil

Oil-and-fat V: Hardened rapeseed-palm mixed oil

	Melting point	SFC (5 °C)	SFC (15 °C)	Content of SUS type triglycerides in oil-and-fat
Oil-and-fat T	36 °C	90%	85%	not more than 50%
Oil-and-fat U	26 °C	65%	53%	65%
Oil-and-fat V	31 °C	55%	40%	not more than 50%

Example 4 and Comparative Example 4

Samples were prepared according to the same formulation and manner as those in Examples 1 to 3 except that the oil-and-fat was varied and the composition of the oil-and-fat was different (Table 3). Experiments were carried out on an oil-and-fat rich in SUS type triglycerides obtained by mixing other oil-and-fat, that is, hardened coconut oil in middle-melting portions of palm oil at different mixing rates. As a result, the sample of Example 4 in the case of a mixed oil-and-fat containing an oil-and-fat other than triglyceride at 10% gave a custard cream showing a plastic state of rheometer value of 70 g/cm², while the sample of Comparative Example 4 in the case of a mixed oil-and-fat containing an oil-and-fat other than triglyceride at 15% gave a liquid having approximately the same viscosity as that immediately after filling and a custard cream showing a plastic state was not obtained.

Table 3

Formulation of custard cream (values represent weight % of total weight).

	Raw material	Example 4	Comparative Example 4		
10	Oil-and-fat W (note 1)	23.6	-		
	Oil-and-fat X (note 2)	-	23.6		
	Yolk	15.0	15.0		
	Sucrose	10.0	10.0		
	Whole milk powder	8.5	8.5		
	Water	remainder	remainder		
15	Emulsifier	0.4	0.4		
	Salts	0.19	0.19		
	Perfume	0.06	0.06		
(Note 1, 2)					
20	Oil-and-fat W:	Middle-melting portions of palm oil 90% + hardened coconut oil 10%			
	Oil-and-fat X:	Middle-melting portions of palm oil 85% + hardened coconut oil 15%			
25		Melting point	SFC (5 °C)	SFC (15 °C)	Content of SUS type triglycerides in oil-and-fat
30	Oil-and-fat W	29 °C	85%	75%	70%
	Oil-and-fat X	28 °C	78%	69%	66%

From this Comparative Example, it is thought that, when another oil-and-fat raw material is added to an oil-and-fat rich in SUS type triglycerides, the upper limit of the proportion to be added is 10% and, when added in an amount above 10%, a plastic state becomes incomplete due to non-uniformization and inhibition of crystallization of the oil-and-fat.

As explained above, according to the present invention, there can be provided a custard cream having very good melting properties in the mouth and smooth texture by utilizing crystallizability of an oil-and-fat without using polysaccharides such as starch or gelatinizing agents and without forming a body by foaming force as in the case of whipped cream.

Claims

1. A custard cream which comprises a body formed by utilizing crystallizability of an oil-and-fat.
2. A custard cream according to claim 1, wherein the oil-and-fat to be used contains not less than 70% of SUS type triglycerides and has an SFC of not less than 70% at 5 °C and not less than 55% at 15 °C.
3. A custard cream according to claim 2, wherein the number of carbon atoms of the fatty acid in the 1,3-disaturated triglyceride of the SUS type triglyceride is 16 and/or 18.
4. A process for producing the custard cream according to claim 2 or claim 3 which comprises formulating an oil-in-water emulsion containing as main ingredients 15 to 50% of oil, 20 to 70% of water, 3 to 20% of yolk (based on fresh egg yolk reduction) and 1 to 15% of non-fat solids.
5. A process for producing a custard cream according to claim 4, wherein the custard cream contains 5 to 30% of one or more sugars and 0 to 5% of starch as an ingredient.

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6. Use of a custard cream according to any one of claims 1 to 3 or when prepared by the process according to claim 4 or claim 5 in the production of the food product.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP93/01147

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl ⁵ A23L1/19, A23G3/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int. Cl ⁵ A23L1/19, A23G3/00 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP, A, 48-40975 (Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd.), June 15, 1973 (15. 06. 73), (Family: none)	1-5
X	JP, A, 63-44841 (Asahi Denka Kogyo K.K.), August 11, 1986 (11. 08. 86), (Family: none)	1, 4, 5
X	JP, A, 4-131060 (Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.), May 1, 1992 (01. 05. 92), (Family: none)	1, 4, 5
X	JP, A, 2-31647 (Nippon Oil and Fats Co., Ltd.), February 1, 1990 (01. 02. 90), (Family: none)	1
PX	JP, A, 5-30911 (Asahi Denka Kogyo K.K.), February 9, 1993 (09. 02. 93), (Family: none)	1-5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reasons (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "A" document member of the same patent family		
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